

to the Burgesses by the Governor for their consideration. It was understood throughout the colonies that Virginia was to make the first answer to the ministry's proposition for peace, and Jefferson was anxious that she should set for the other colonies an example of firmness and courage. The reply, passed by a vote "approaching unanimity," shows that the colony was rebellious and bent upon war, despite its protestations of loyalty and its oft-expressed desire for peace. Patrick Henry had uttered the real sentiment of his countrymen when he said: "The God of Hosts is all that is left us. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace."

It was in a spirit of war and rebellion that Jefferson drew up a reply to the "Conciliatory Proposition," and it was in this spirit that he went to Philadelphia in June, 1775, to take his seat as a delegate to Congress. He was now thirty-two years of age; only two members of Congress were younger. He had developed into an all-round man of the world. He could "calculate an eclipse, survey an estate, tie an artery, plan an edifice, try a cause, break a horse, dance a minuet, and play the violin." His fame had preceded him in Congress. "Mr. Jefferson," wrote John Adams in 1822, "came to Congress in June, 1775, and brought with him a reputation for literature, science, and a happy talent for composition. Writings of his were handed about, remarkable for the peculiar felicity of expression." His pen was soon called into requisition. Congress, feeling obliged to give the world reasons for the rebellious scenes of Lexington and Bunker Hill, appointed a committee to draw up a declaration of causes for taking up arms. The report of this committee proving unsatisfactory, Congress recommitted it and added Jefferson and John Dickinson to the committee. Jefferson drew up a declaration that was too strong for the conservatives. Especially was the language of the young Virginian too strong for John Dickinson, who had great influence in Congress and still cherished hopes of reconciliation. Jefferson, seeing there was no chance for the adoption of his own draft against the opposition of Dickinson, gave way. Dickinson then prepared a statement more agreeable to the less radical, although